

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 STR-04 /080 W

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R 241501Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4345

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, UR

SUBJECT: JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE-COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECREE:

GET THE CROPS IN ON TIME

1. CENTRAL PRESS MAY 22 CARRIES JOINT DECREE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON "ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO INSURE HARVEST OF CROPS, PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FODDER IN 1976." MAIN STRESS IN DECREE IS ON MATERIAL STIMULI FOR WORKERS, WITH INTRICATE SYSTEM OF PREMIUMS RANGING FROM 20 PERCENT OF WAGES FOR TRUCK DRIVERS FULFILLING 24-HOUR NORM FOR HAULING GRAIN IN MOST AREAS OF SOVIET UNION TO 100 PERCENT FOR TRACTOR DRIVERS-MECHANICS WHO ACHIEVE 60 PERCENT AND OVER OF GRAIN OUTPUT NORM IN AREAS OF SIBERIA, SOVIET FAR EAST, AND VIRGIN LANDS OF KAZAKHSTAN. DECREE SPELS OUT IN EACH CASE WHERE RESPONSIBILITY LIES FOR PAYING WAGES TO "RECRUITS" FOR HARVEST WORK AS WELL AS SOURCES OF PREMIUMS. WHEREAS

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RULES ARE MADE MANDATORY FOR STATE FARMS AND OTHER STATE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE, DECREE ONLY URGES ACCEPTANCE BY COLLECTIVE

FARMS (KOLKNOZES).

2. INCLUDED AMONG SEVERAL "EXCEPTIONS" STATED IN DECREE IS PERMISSION FOR REPUBLIC COUNCILS OF MINISTERS TO USE AVAILABLE "ABLE-BODIED WORKERS" FROM RESPECTIVE AREAS WITH EXCLUSIONS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN "CERTAIN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES." FURTHER, SOVIET STATE BANK (GOSBANK) IS PERMITTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 1976 TO GRANT EXCEPTIONAL LONG-TERM CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF HARVEST MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS SPECIFIED IN ECONOMIC PLANS.

3. COMMENT: DECREE RESEMBLES STANDARD ANNUAL EXHORTATION TO FARM WORKERS TO "GET THE CROPS IN", BUT TONE APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT SHRILLER THAN USUAL. EMPHASIS, IN ADDITION TO NEED FOR RAPID WORK, IS ON QUALITY OF PRODUCTS AND REDUCTION OF WASTE: MANY OF THE PREMIUMS ARE TIED TO FULFILLING NORMS IN TIME AND WITHOUT WASTE. OVERALL APPEARANCE IS OF MASS "STROMING" SESSION, WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF CITY FOLKS BEING HAULED OUT TO THE FARMS TO DRIVE TRACTORS AND HELP REAP THE WHEAT. THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO REFERENCE TO STANDARD "MORAL" STIMULI, LIKE "SOCIALIST COMPETITION" OR HERO MEDALS: RUBLES AND KILOGRAMS OF WHEAT AND OTHER CROPS APPEAR MORE LIKELY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. IF OFFERED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE RACE FOR "QUALITY-EFFECTIVENESS" IN THE IOFYP, THE JOINT DECREE CONFIRMS BELIEF OF MANY OBSERVERS THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT IS STILL IN THE STARTING BLOCKS. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW08239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760202-0297
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760520/aaaaarpm.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE-COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECREE: GET THE CROPS IN ON TIME
TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006